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The Farm in Summer.

WHY THERE SHOULD BE NO THIRDS IN THE WEED WAR. HOW WEEDS ARE PROPAGATED AND HOW THEY ARE DESTROYED BY THE CAST-INSUFFICIENCY OF INDIVIDUAL EFFORT.

July and August are the months when weeds spring up in every available space, and the danger is that the efforts of their destruction may be relaxed as soon as the crops are well started. Too much dependence is placed on the crop to keep down the weeds, and it does happen that a thrifty and quick-growing crop will give weeds but a small chance to grow but there are so many kinds of weeds that it is difficult to escape them, as the conditions that are unsuitable for some kinds are very favorable for others. There are farmers who follow a regular routine of work. They cultivate their corn a certain number of times, giving it two or three "workings" until it is "laid by," and will not go on the field again with a cultivator under any circumstances. It is on such farms that the stocks of weeds are propagated, from which seeds are scattered over the adjoining farms. The weeds are in the minds of such farmers that there is no time for "laying by" the corn if there are even but a few weeds among the rows. A single weed left standing may cause a thousand to spring up next season.

The seeds of most of the weed families retain their vitality for years, and if buried this year by the plow may be brought to the surface when the land is again plowed. The vacant lots of cities and towns contribute largely to the supply of weeds, the light seeds not only being carried to great distances by the winds, but also by the tops of the railroad cars, which distribute them hundreds of miles along the railroads. The seeds of vegetables, and of wheat, clover and grass, purchased and brought on the farm, too frequently contain the seeds of weeds, because it is impossible to detect or remove them from the seeds intended for crops. The mature weed is also a receptacle for matured weeds, the seeds being distributed over the fields when spreading manure, and the fence corners and other locations contribute their share in keeping the farmer busy the greater portion of the growing season in the effort of destroying weeds and saving his crops.

In all communities will be found at least one or two less progressive than their neighbors, who will not completely destroy weeds, and if they do, they will not themselves, all would be well, but they entail hundreds of dollars loss on others, and make farming a very disagreeable occupation to some. Laws would, no doubt, prevent this condition of affairs to some extent if properly enforced, but the most reliable should be placed on organized effort for the complete destruction of weeds. Nearly all of the familiar weeds are annuals, and can be kept down by being destroyed the year or two if they are destroyed when young, and in many cases, where the mow can be used, the work is easy. The most profitable plan is to grow crops that require the hoe, harrow and cultivator, and not to omit cultivation until the land is entirely free of weeds, at the same time rooting out all weeds growing on locations upon which the cultivator cannot be used.—Record.

Country Roads.

The economic value of good roads is not as thoroughly understood by most farmers as it ought to be. No better topic for discussion, at a Grange or Farmers' Club meeting, could be taken up than this. There are two aspects to the question worth considering. We have often referred to the wear and tear upon horses, harness and wagons, and the waste of valuable time by the loss of roads. This is a point of no little importance, for the annual loss from this cause, as has been clearly shown, is much greater than a tax sufficient to keep the roads in good order would amount to. But there is another value not only in keeping the road in good order, but also in keeping it neat and tidy. When weeds, bushes, and rubbish of all kinds are allowed to encumber the roadside the whole neighborhood is made to look untidy, and the effect is to lower the value of all the property bordering upon the road. A stranger driving along such an ill-kept way is most unfavorably impressed. The natural inference is that the farmer is a careless one—that the farmers' property is an untidy one, and that it would be very undesirable to settle. On the other hand, a well-made roadway, passing between borders of grass or cultivated land, and all kept in trim order, attracts the eye and all who involuntarily conclude that here is an enterprising, thrifty, prosperous community. And the conclusion would not be far out of the way.

PROFITS OF THE FARM.

Most farmers have to do the best they can, not as they would wish. And whether they get their rightful share of the farm profits depends not only upon their ability to work and plan, but also upon their ability to market what they have to sell, as well as upon the carefulness of the wife also. For instance, the farmer may be very careful about feeding his cows, keeping them clean, etc., but unless the housewife supplements the milk, cream and butter with little extra work amounts to but little. We have now in our mind's eye a farmer who receives five cents above the market price for his butter, from the fact that his customers found that the quality was the superior throughout the year, and as good as any to be found in the market. Now this extra five cents is all profit, and he is entitled to it. Nor is that all profit, for when once a customer is obtained it is usually for a whole season, and a market thus opened for other produce. In this way much time is saved in marketing, and middlemen entirely dispensed with. It brings him in the cash, and thus enables him to buy where he can get the most for his money, which is another profit. This is not fancy farming, but legitimate business, and free from all competitors. Country dealers, on the other hand, generally buy produce in a lump and sell good and bad together at pretty much the same price, without allowing anything for quality. So it is always best for a farmer to establish a reputation for producing a good article in order to get his full share of the profit on anything he has to sell.

Nothing is so strong as gentleness; nothing so gentle as real strength.—Francis de Sales.

Horn without action is a barren under.—Folham.

"What're ye up to?" asked a crook as his pal lifted a full coin out of the money-drawer. "Selling it." "Don't say a word; it's a free silver movement of me own."—Washington Star.

It is not

An experiment—but a *Proven Success*. Thousands of housekeepers who at first thought they never could use any shortening but lard, now use *COTOLENE* and couldn't be induced to change, simply because it is better, cheaper and more healthful. The genuine has this trade mark—steer's head in cotton-plant wreath—on every pal. Look for it.



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Crop Rotation.

Long experience confirms the theory that the same crop, though adapted to the soil, will in time wear out the elements of the soil for which they are specially adapted, the fact making itself known by the falling off in their quantity and quality. After a certain period, either the crops will be changed or the land must be suffered to lie fallow. The latter treatment is too expensive in our modern farming, and therefore the alternative is to change the crop entirely. For this purpose it is of course essential that as large a variety of crops as possible be raised. The experiments in the garden turn out to be a safe guide for those in the field. We already know that lands cropped with wheat or tobacco for a number of years will steadily decline in fertility, while those cropped with corn, clover, etc., will steadily gain in fertility. There is, of course, some good reason for this besides the character of the soil alone. Nor will the question of fertilization well the requirements of the case. It is well demonstrated that the crop itself has exhausted the soil. According to Prof. Goessmann, the introduction of clover and potatoes makes a new era in this respect in agriculture. The old four-year course, called the "Korke course," was as follows: First year, root crops—turnips, rutabagas, etc.; second year, summer grass—baleage, etc.; third year, fodder crop—lemon grass, clover, etc.; fourth year, winter grains—wheat, etc. Now instead of grain crops forming the staple of farming, more important crops are introduced, and in many cases the latter cultivated fully two-thirds of the land. The professor maintains that a rotation of crops tends to increase the chances of rendering the raising of farm crops more successful, and therefore more remunerative than any of the old systems of field management. The object of crop rotation is to regulate, as far as possible, the chemical and physical conditions of the soil, having reference to the kinds of crops to be raised. Any judicious system of rotation assigns to each crop a place in the rotation, and in the existing conditions of the soil.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

The Household.

The Various Excellent Tools for Supper, Central Housekeeping Unit.

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